

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

HOW WE TREAT WOUNDS TO-DAY. A treatise on the subject of antiseptic surgery which can be understood by beginners. By ROBERT T. MORRIS, M.D. Second edition. 12 mo. P. 165. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1886.

This little book has evidently been written with a purpose; it is both a missionary tract and a primer of antiseptic technique. There is, withal, a breezy dogmatic flavor to its sentences that will not fail to attract attention to what is said, whether it commands assent or not. It is not an elaborate treatise on the treatment of wounds, nor a description of the many varieties of antiseptic technique that are in vogue. The author is very plain and detailed in what he does say, and the very limitation of his directions to one line really increases the value of his book to those who wish to know just what to do in order to conform their work to the demands of the most approved antiseptics. The methods detailed are those which are to be found in the best of the German clinics at the present time, and which look to the obtaining of aseptic wounds and infrequent dressings. Full descriptions of all materials required for this kind of work, how to prepare them or where to obtain them, as well as how to use them, are given. The book will do much to popularize thorough antiseptic wound treatment. There is so much of superficial, so-called antiseptic work being done, that such a clean-cut, positive detailed setting forth of what constitutes real antiseptic work, as this is, is called for.

L. S. PILCHER.

DIE ASEPTISCHE WUNDBEHANDLUNG IN MEINEN CHIRURGISCHEN PRIVAT-HOSPITALERN. Von Dr. G. NEUBER, Docent für Chirurgie a. d. Universität zu Kiel. Kiel, Lipsius und Tischer. 1886. New York, G. E. Stechert.

Aseptic Wound Treatment: in my Private Surgical Hospitals. By Dr. G. NEUBER, Instructor of Surgery at the University of Kiel.

In this pamphlet of 36 pages, the former assistant of Prof. Esmarch, of Kiel, relates his efforts to replace the present method of antiseptic treatment of wounds by simple aseptic treatment.

Believing wound-diseases to be caused by the action of germs, he seeks to avoid their presence by a general improvement of hospital hygiene, rather than by locally combatting them with antiseptic solutions and materials.

The work is of interest as it is the first one of its kind, coming from a German surgeon, while our own literature offers a relatively large number of similar propositions. No results are as yet recorded—the buildings and internal arrangements having scarcely been completed. A detailed description of the three separate hospital buildings and accessories is given, illustrated by numerous wood-cuts; and in the account of the operating rooms many hints are interspersed, which are well worthy of attention.

We notice a few of them more particularly. The operation rooms, which are situated on the ground-floor, are five in number; a separate room being used for the treatment of acutely inflamed, chronically inflamed and recent wounds, injuries not complicated with wounds, and rectal and genito-urinary diseases respectively. Each room possesses its own proper instruments and paraphernalia.

The walls, ceiling and floor are all smooth and coated with oil-paint, so as to be easily cleansed, and much of the stationary furniture, etc., is let into the walls.

The floor slopes to a drainage-hole at one side, which leads through a tube directly into the outer air. From the end of this tube the waste fluids fall into a receiving funnel, from whence they are conducted by pipes to the sewer. By this arrangement the author hopes to escape the effects of sewer-gases. The other waste-pipes of the house are simply trapped with water.

The air admitted to the operating room passes first through a furnace and then through a cotton filter.

The author intends to use only sterilized water for irrigations. He places his instruments in a 1% carbolic solution, after boiling them for fifteen minutes. He gives the greatest attention to the personal cleanliness of all the attendants, and has all articles of furniture as well as the aprons and boots of the surgeons soaped off and cleansed with sublimate solution (2 pro mille.). The sponges, after having been thoroughly cleansed, are kept in a 5% carbolic solution.

Separate bath-tubs are provided for patients affected with different diseases, septic infections being prevented from all contact with recent wounds. The skin is disinfected before operations with sublimate solution.

By such means as these—though they can scarce claim the title of simple aseptic as opposed to antiseptic precautions, as the author would have it, Dr. Neuber hopes to do away with the drainage of wounds altogether, to avoid changing the dressings and to escape all dangers of poisoning by antiseptic substances.

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